

REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application is requested.

With entry of this amendment, the claims pending for examination are claims 16, 20 and 21. Claims 17, 18 and 19 have been canceled. Claims 1-15 and 22 stand withdrawn as directed to a non-elected invention. The Examiner has the applicant's permission to cancel these claims for allowance of the elected claims herein, subject to possible divisional filing.

Claim 16 has been amended to include features of claim 19 with R⁸ and R¹⁰ defined as in canceled claim 17. The definition of R⁷, R¹¹, R⁹ and R¹² as added to claim 16 are taken from claim 19. The Examiner will note that R⁹ and R¹² are defined as optionally substituted hydrocarbonyl with the addition of the requirement that the hydrocarbonyl group is a cyclic group comprising from 3 to 10 carbon atoms in the largest ring and optionally featuring one or more bridging atoms. Basis for this feature can be seen from the last two paragraphs on page 7 of the applicant's specification and from the first paragraph on page 8.


The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider the Section 103(a) rejection of claims 16-21 (now claims 16, 20 and 21) as unpatentable over U.S. Patent 6,723,871. The reference does not disclose or suggest a catalyst as defined in applicant's claim 16 as amended or as called for in claims 20 and 21.

The prior art does not in any way motivate one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the reference products so as to reach the applicant's catalysts as defined in claims 16, 20 and 21.

Favorable reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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